

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

SCCT-01 USSS-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 ARA-06

EURE-00 SAJ-01 /083 W

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P R 231455Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0073

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY SECURITY SITUATION

REF: STATE 097278 (NOTAL)

1. DURING SENDOFF LUNCHEON WHICH CHARGE GAVE APRIL 21
FOR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE JOHANES, ALSO ATTENDED
BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL AND SIXTH DEPT
HEAD ZANTOVSKY (SEE SEPTEL ON MAJOR TOPICS OF CONVERSATION),
JOHANES WAS INSISTENT ON THE THEME OF THE
SECURITY SITUATION FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PERSONNEL IN THE US.
WHILE AS A NEW AMBASSADOR HE UNDOUBTEDLY HAS SOME
PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE SUBJECT, HE ALSO
GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS,
AND HE DID MAKE AN EXPLICIT CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE SITUATION FOR CZECHOSLOVAKS IN THE US AND THE
SITUATION FOR AMERICANS IN PRAGUE.

2. ALTHOUGH SPACIL TOOK THE LEAD IN MOST OF THE
DISCUSSION, JOHANES RAISED THIS SUBJECT HIMSELF
AND CAME BACK TO IT LATER. BOTH TIMES, HE
SEEMED TO TAKE PAINS TO MENTION THAT US PERSONNEL
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IN PRAGUE ENJOYED GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS, AND

WE WOULD NOT WANT TO ENDURE BAD CONDITIONS ANY MORE THAN CZECHOSLOVAK PERSONNEL WANTED TO IN US. (NONE OF THE THREE CZECHS RAISED ANY SPECIFIC INCIDENT, MERELY SPEAKING OF "INCIDENTS" IN GENERAL.) JOHANES TONE WAS NOT IN ANY WAY THREATENING, BUT HIS MENTION OF HE SITUATION IN BOTH PRAGUE AND WASHINGTON/NEW YORK DID NOT SEEM ACCIDENTAL. HE DID MENTION HIS PERSONAL CONCERN FOR THE WELLBEING OF HIS OWN WIFE AND CHILDREN.

3. CHARGE REPLIED SERIOUSLY AND AT SOME LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT. SPEAKING FRANKLY, CHARGE NOTED OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS WITH USSR WITH REGARD TO INCIDENTS IN NEW YORK, AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS NOT CONSIDER THE UNFORTUNATE BUT ISOLATED INCIDENTS THAT HAPPENED TO THEIR PERSONNEL IN SAME WAY THAT THE SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE CONSIDERED THE INCIDENTS AFFECTING THEM. IN CASE OF USSR, SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEM IN US AND THAT THEY WOULD RETALIATE IN MOSCOW WITH ACTIONS AFFECTING US PERSONNEL. WE CONSIDERED THIS HIGHLY IMPROPER, AND HAD PROTESTED; FACT WAS THAT USG WAS DOING ITS UTMOST TO PROTECT SOVIETS AND OTHERS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. IN CASE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CHARGE SAID, THERE WAS NO HINT OF ANY ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAK PERSONNEL, AND IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE FOR GOC TO THINK THAT SOME KIND OF RECIPROCAL MEASURES OUGHT TO BE CONTEMPLATED. CHARGE MENTIONED ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY EUR OFFICIALS, AND CITED DEPARTMENT'S EAGERNESS TO COOPERATE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKS IN PREVENTING ANY FURTHER INCIDENTS. CHARGE ENDED BY EARNESTLY ADVISING JOHANES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATEY UPON ANY HINT OF AN INCIDENT, AND HE COULD BE ASSURED THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD COOPERATE SYMPATHETICALLY IN TRYING TO REASSURE CZECHOSLOVAK PERSONNEL AND TO PREVENT INCIDENTS.

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4. COMMENT: CHARGE COULD NOT TELL IF HIS REMARKS MADE MUCH IMPRESSION ON JOHANES. WE RECOMMEND THAT DURING HIS EARLY CALLS AT THE DEPARTMENT, THE SUBJECT BE RAISED BY US SIDE AND ASSURANCES GIVEN OF DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN AFFORDING ALL POSSIBLE PROTECTION. WITH REGARD TO REFTEL, EMBASSY'S OPINION IS THAT

IT IS NOT REALLY ADVISABLE TO RAISE PAN AM BREAK-INS IN CONNECTION WITH CZECHOSLOVAK INCIDENTS IN US.
AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
PAN AM INCIDENTS ARE IN RETALIATION FOR WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING TO
CZECHOSLOVAKS IN NYC AND WASHINGTON; THEREFORE, RAISING
PAN AM BREAK-INS SEEMS TO US TO DETRACT FROM OUR
CENTRAL MESSAGE, WHICH IS THAT WE AFFORDING GOC PERSONNEL ALL POSSIBL
E
PROTECTION IN US. IF SITUATION SHOULD CHANGE AND GOC BEGINS
TO RETALIATE IN EARNEST, AS SOVIETS ARE DOING
IN MOSCOW, THEN WE WOULD WANT OUR HANDS FREE TO OFFER
SERIOUS PROTESTS. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, WE HAVE INFORMED
ALL PERSONNEL INCLUDING WIVES OF CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING
CZECHOSLOVAK INCIDENTS IN US, AND ASKED EVERYONE TO BE
ALERT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALSO REASSURED PERSONNEL THAT WE DO NOT
BELIEVE ANY RETALIATORY MEASURES ARE IN THE OFFING RIGHT
NOW, AND THAT CONTINUES TO BE THE EMBASSY'S
COLLECTIVE VIEW.
PERRY

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